

# The Best & Worst of Gay Vermont

Paul Olsen  
Photographs by Fred & Kip Roberson-Kuhr

**COLCHESTER** -- It's time for Out in The Mountains' first best and worst of Vermont list. Following the lead of the *Burlington Free Press*, *Vermont Times* and the *Montreal Mirror*, I have compiled a list of what I think represents the best and worst of lesbian and gay Vermont. As I am the guy who compiled the list, the winners and losers represent the opinion of me.

### News/Politics:

**Best News Personality:**  
WPTZ's Blaine Applegate (who cares what he says--turn the volume down and just watch).

**Worst News Personalities:**  
WCAX's Marselius Parsons & Jack LaDuke (when will Channel 3 realize that TV is a visual media?).

**Best Gay Newspaper:**  
*Out in the Mountains* (of course!)



**Best Volunteer Gay Causes:**  
Outright Vermont or a Howdy Russell campaign.

**Best Politicians:**  
Representatives Thomas Fleury of Burlington & Bill Lippert of Hinesburg (the only out members of the Vermont Legislature).

**Worst Politicians:**  
The cowardly State Representative Ricky Westman of Cambridge who refuses to use his position as minority leader to in any way support or vote for issues important to our community.

**Best Political Organizer:**  
Peggy Luhrs (intelligent, hard working and committed--a Vermont institution).

**Our Community's Best Friend:**  
Governor Howard Dean (okay he's not perfect but I believe he is committed to justice for our community).

**Our Community's Worst Enemies:**  
Rev. Richard Callahan of the Maranatha Christian Church in Williston and Rev. Craig Benson of Cambridge (like many hate mongers, the evil Callahan and Benson are using their influence to

advance a nationwide "christian" supremacist agenda).

### Religion:

**Best Spiritual Leader:**  
Rev. Gary Kowalski (committed to justice, anti-safe sex, anti-women, anti-gay & lesbian civil rights, and anti-justice. Can you say Antichrist?).

**Worst Spiritual Leader:**  
Bishop Kenneth Angell (anti-choice, anti-safe sex, anti-women, anti-gay & lesbian civil rights, and anti-justice. Can you say Antichrist?).

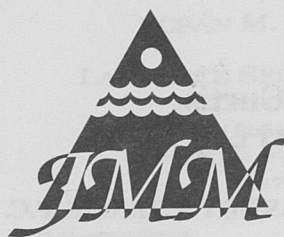
### Social:

**Best Place to Meet Gay Men:**  
On vacation or in Montreal.

**Best Place to Meet Lesbians:**  
Hinesburg.

**Best Gay Bar:**  
Pearls Bar (the sentimental favorite and now partially smoke free).

**Worst Gay Bar:**  
Pearls Bar (as my friend Mike says "if you're quiet enough you can actually hear Pearls suck").



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